
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO
DEVELOP RULES FOR AQUARIUM FISH PERMITTING THAT PROTECT
HAWAII'S AQUATIC WILDLIFE AND REEF ENVIRONMENTS.

1 WHEREAS, Hawaii's reefs are the world's third-largest
2 source of wildlife for aquarium hobbyists; and
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4 WHEREAS, aquarium collection causes a loss of wildlife that
5 threatens Hawaii's reef environments and the socioeconomic
6 benefits they provide, including benefits to tourism, which is a
7 crucial contributor to the State's economy, and to the
8 sustenance of local families; and
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10 WHEREAS, maintaining herbivorous fish populations and
11 restoring populations in areas where they have declined or been
12 lost are essential for the protection of Hawaii's coral reefs
13 and the current and future socioeconomic well-being of Hawaii's
14 people; and
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16 WHEREAS, the broad consensus in Hawaii supports replenished
17 populations of aquatic life targeted by the aquarium trade; and
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19 WHEREAS, the vast majority of Hawaii residents want
20 restoration and protection of our reefs for current and future
21 generations; now, therefore,
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23 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
24 Twenty-eighth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
25 Session of 2015, that the Department of Land and Natural
26 Resources is requested to protect Hawaii's aquatic wildlife and
27 reef environments by developing and adopting rules for aquarium
28 fish permitting that:
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- 30 (1) Designate those islands on which aquarium collecting
31 is allowed, and on those islands designate a minimum



percentage of coastal waters in which commercial aquarium collection is prohibited;

- (2) Establish catch limits by species to allow replenishment and maintenance of aquatic life at ninety percent of unfished levels, with permits being reduced or phased out if not achieved within five years in areas where commercial aquarium collecting is prohibited in less than seventy percent of the coastal waters;
- (3) Designate limited-entry areas where an entry quota for only the number of collectors of fish and other aquatic life for aquarium purposes will be established;
- (4) Develop certification requirements and other conditions of eligibility for aquarium fish permits, including:
 - (A) A mortality rate threshold that does not exceed one percent per species upon arrival and within three days of arrival at each step in the chain of custody; and
 - (B) An environmental assessment, environmental impact statement, and cultural impact assessment prior to issuing or renewing any commercial aquarium collection permit;
- (5) Require monitoring of permit-holders' continuing eligibility for an aquarium fish permit;
- (6) Limit the number of aquarium fish permits issued annually;
- (7) Establish bag and catch limits for fish and other aquatic life;
- (8) Enhance penalties for noncompliance with applicable laws; and



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1 (9) Establish the means to ensure consistent enforcement
2 of all permit requirements, limits, and conditions for
3 the collection of fish or other aquatic life for
4 aquarium purposes; and
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6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
7 Resolution be transmitted to the Interim Chairperson of the
8 Board of Land and Natural Resources.
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OFFERED BY: *Key*

MAR 13 2015

